

Torrance Herald

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REID L. BUNDY - Managing Editor
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The Downtown Plan

The will to live, thrive, and grow should be inherent in an individual or a community. That spirit is being demonstrated admirably, we think, in the recently organized movement to regenerate the downtown business section of Torrance.

A competent committee has been named by Mayor Albert Isen and a preliminary plan proposed that should be helpful in greatly improving shopping facilities and attracting customers in sufficient numbers to assure a bright future for the area.

While physical improvement is essential to success of the whole plan, sound and aggressive merchandising practices fit importantly into the program.

Mayor Isen and the others who have accepted leadership in this project so important to the future of the city, should be commended for their action. It should follow that every businessman, or taxpayer in the community for that matter, will give full support to a combined effort so successful that it will be a giant step forward to a properly balanced community.

Building for Bigness

By now most people know Pat Brown wants to throw a party—a real, live, whoop-de-do celebration over the fact that on December 21 California is expected to top the nation in population.

Being the biggest IS rather exciting. But cooler heads, without meaning to be wet blankets, have pointed to the responsibilities that go along with growth, and warn that California must not only welcome bigness, but prepare for it. As Robert Hornby, president of the California Chamber of Commerce and head of Pacific Lighting Corp., said the other day, "our jubilation must be tempered" by this challenge of growth.

It is comforting, therefore, to read some of the chamber's statistics that measure industry's efforts to meet that challenge. According to its economic development and research department, new construction in California for 1962 is estimated to total \$7.3 billion, an increase of more than \$200 million over 1961, and an all-time high. Of the 1962 total, nearly \$5 billion will be in private construction. More than three-quarters of a billion will come from Mr. Hornby's and other investor-owned utilities. Private residential construction will top \$2.7 billion.

A population of 17.3 million is a lot of people, and that is what California is expected to have before next New Year's Eve. We can be thankful that private industry is alert to the challenge and putting good solid cash on the line to meet it.

Morning Report:

That picture out of Moscow showing three young Russians in bathing suits playing in hip-deep snow still has me puzzled. It's the kind of publicity stunt used for years by desperate American press agents to plug their winter resorts.

I suppose it means that the Moscow Chamber of Commerce is finally trying to fight all that bad publicity Napoleon gave the Russian climate.

But the picture is a good omen for world peace. It shows that the communists are willing to be as silly as we are. I know they invented snow. Now, if they will also claim press agents, there is real hope.

Abe Mellinkoff

Out of the Past

From the Pages of the HERALD

40 Years Ago

In 1922 a front page editorial in THE HERALD declared, "Torrance's most vital need today is more houses." It continued: "We have enough stores and other business establishments for the present, we need more factories, but, above all else, we need at least 500 more houses."

The carnival staged in Torrance last week helped the Legion a bit financially but not to the extent that could be expected were it a warmer season of the year. We are glad to report that the conduct of the people connected with the shows was not to be questioned in any way and the Legion members are to be commended on the efficient police protection accorded the citizens of the community during the operation of the show.

Flowing at the rate of 5,000 barrels of oil a day, the Sandburg Petroleum Co. well at Signal Hill is causing a sensation among oil men. It is being received in Torrance with elation because oil men now drilling here contend they are finding the same formations and the same oil sand at the same depths.

The average Torrance resident will be surprised to learn that every day music is sent by wireless from Los Angeles. In the near future, a company will be organized to send out music commercially.

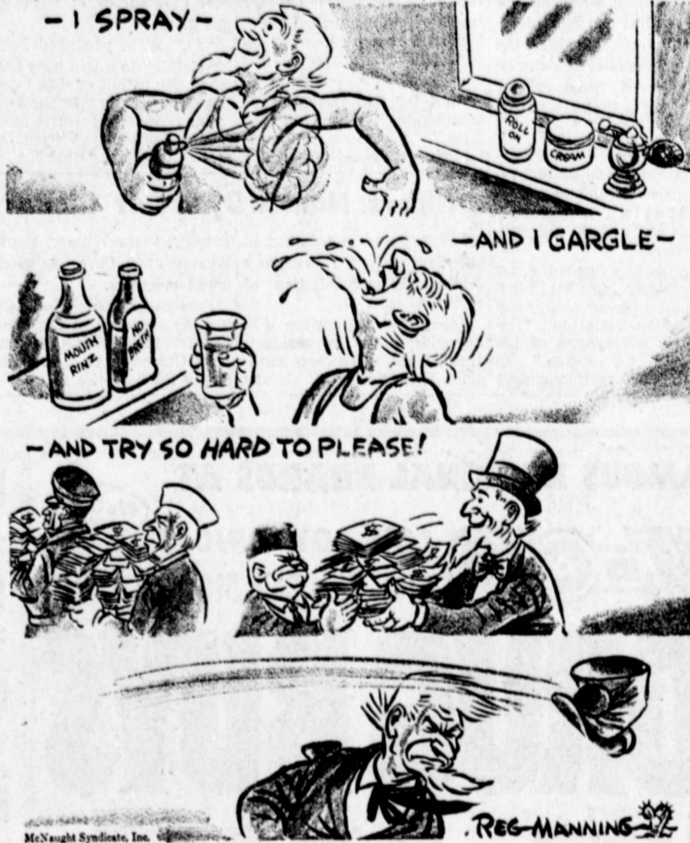
30 Years Ago

American Legion medals were presented to Mildred Higgins and Fred Hansen Jr., both members of the A6 class that advanced into Junior High from the Elementary school Tuesday. The medals are granted semi-annually to the boy and girl who are judged the most outstanding students in character, leadership, scholarship, and citizenship.

Five bids to furnish the city with 5,000 gallons of gasoline during the coming year were opened at the city council meeting Tuesday night. The contract was awarded to the Union Oil Co. on a bid of 12 cents a gallon.

What Councilman Ed Nelson termed "frog ponds" at the intersection of Sonoma and Beech and Madrid and Sonoma avenues, will either be filled or provided with adequate drainage in the next few weeks.

Who'd I Do Wrong, Mr. Carnegie?



James Dorais

Town Declines Fed's Bid To Enter Depressed List

By JAMES DORAIS

The town of Weaverville, county seat of California's scenic Trinity County (population 9,706, as of the 1960 census) has suddenly been writ large on the national map.

It got that way by being designated a Depressed Area. Last August, a team of two men from the United States Department of Commerce and the California State Department of Economic Development informed Trinity County officials that all they needed to do to qualify as a Depressed Area—and thus become entitled to receive low interest loans, technical assistance, urban renewal money and relief to blighted industries—was to apply for help.

One day three months later, Weaverville's newspaper, the Weekly Trinity Journal, received three telegrams—one from Congressman Harold Johnson, one from Senator Clare Engle and one from Senator Thomas Kuchel—all passing on the glad tidings that President Kennedy had officially designated Trinity County as Depressed. To the Journal's editor, William F. Asbury, this was surprising news, because no one in Trinity County had taken the suggestions of the

federal and state agents seriously enough to bother to fill out the applications!

In a quizzical editorial, editor Asbury pointed out that Trinity County bank deposits are at an all-time high, that a number of new businesses and several new subdivisions have blossomed out in the county in recent months and that the Weaverville Chamber of Commerce had just concluded on optimistic survey of the area's future. "Someone back east," the editorial concluded, "is pointing a scornful finger our way and saying 'Lie down and be depressed, damn you!'"

Shortly after the editorial appeared, it came to the attention of Raymond Moley, who publicized the plight of the unwillingly Depressed citizens of Weaverville in his syndicated column which appears in many of the country's metropolitan newspapers.

Since then, people from all over the country have written the Weekly Trinity Journal expressing their sympathy, and requests for copies of the "Lie Down and Be Depressed, Damn You!" editorial have exhausted the newspaper's file of back issues.

In a subsequent editorial, the Journal pointed out that one of the problems of places classified as Depressed Areas is that the name doesn't exactly inspire confidence in the minds of owners and managers of businesses considering new locations.

But a representative of the U. S. Department of Commerce came up with a good Madison Avenue answer to that problem. He suggests simply calling such places "Areas of Economic Opportunity" instead.

Dubliners were shocked to learn recently that groups of Northern Ireland policemen were being attacked near the border. One of them was killed in County Armagh. The IRA men usually make their way across the border after a raid, though sometimes they are sheltered and supported by Nationalists in the north.

Almost as surprising as the resumption of the raids was the sternness of the Dublin Government's reaction. A military court with wide powers was reconstituted. It was set up in 1939 when the IRA was carrying out a bombing campaign in England and flirting with the Nazis, but it had been dormant since the end of World War II.

Prime Minister Sean Lemass says that the court is necessary. If raiders were tried in

the ordinary courts, witnesses or jurors might be threatened, he holds.

Some people doubt if wide legal powers can be an answer to this unofficial army. They have existed a long time but have never been able to kill it. A person may be imprisoned for six months for "failing to give an account of his movements" on a particular day or night.

Underground military organization has a long history in Ireland and it has learned to survive against heavy odds. In Irish politics, one sometimes finds an inexplicable element. Police have just confiscated a revolver and ammunition found in a locker belonging to one of the T.D.s (representatives) in the Dail. A hearse owned by a former T.D. was held up by police as it moved slowly over the hilly roads of County Leitrim. Instead of a corpse, it carried guns and ammunition.

Perhaps the main reason why the IRA continues is that constitutional means are doing little to unite the country. Some Dubliners see it as a safety valve for adventurous young men who have lost confidence in politicians. They say that if it did not exist, Communism might gain a footing here.

Dubliners never eat horse-meat. But they have heard and read more about it in the last two years than the people of any other city in Europe. Now they hope they will hear no more of it.

Until early December, horses were sent from Dublin at the rate of about 10,000 a year for French, Belgian, and Dutch slaughterhouses. Then 12 horses were washed up on the south coast of Wales, some with their legs tied together. They had died at sea during a storm and were thrown overboard.

Animal lovers in Ireland, England, and France stirred up an international outcry. The Irish Government has now banned the export of horses of over 7 years, and is expected to enforce a total ban later.

Nancie Hatte, a middle-aged soberly dressed Dublin lady, must be one of the best friends that horses have ever had. She organized a Save The Horses Fund. Over 200 horses that she saved from becoming horse-meat are now working on small farms all over the country or retired to grazing.

A Bookman's Notebook

'Mister Roberts' of the Medical Corps Unveiled

William Hogan

The creator of "Hyman Kaplan," one of the most exasperating and lovable characters in modern American fiction, goes back to the Second World War for a cast of highly original characters in "Captain Newman, M.D." In the first major novel to appear this year, Leo C. Rosten investigates life in a psychiatric ward. The scene: an Air Forces medical station somewhere in the Southwest.

This is an area of soldier experience that has not, to my knowledge, been tapped before in fiction. It may seem an odd setting for comedy. Yet Rosten's blend of subtlety, sympathy and rich understanding of character values, so evident in the Hyman Kaplan stories, makes this not only an agreeable but often wildly comic reading experience. It is proof again that characters, funny and otherwise, are where you find them, and that a particularly fertile ground is the wartime military service.

Narrated by a psychologist recently out of Harvard, Rosten's story focuses on Captain Josiah J. Newman, chief of the hospital's psychiatric branch. An unorthodox military man, he is an effective therapist often at war with the Army. An all-around "good guy," he is spiritually akin to Thomas Heggen's famous "Mister Roberts," and may have a similarly universal appeal.

Through Captain Newman, Rosten projects a series of vignettes, a range of emotions and a mixed bag of vivid personalities, some of them earthy in the classic GI tradition. Corporal Laibowitz, for instance, is one of my favorites here. Laibowitz is an orderly who finds himself in the one place in the Army, and perhaps the world, which he truly understands—a place where everyone else is unhappy too.

These are airmen broken by combat and just people with problems among those present. There is the fellow who attempts to steal a jeep by sending it, part by part, through the U.S. mails; there is Gino McGraw, a punk who kills himself over a girl's opinion of him.

The assembled company plays out its serio-comic drama under the eye of Cap-

tain Newman, who is considered to be a character himself by his colleagues. By quietly serving above and beyond the call of duty, Captain Newman, of course, becomes as much a military hero as any who wears rainbows of medals on their tunics.

It is senseless to compare Captain Newman with Rosten's Hyman Kaplan. The adult student of English in a New York immigrant night school who appeared originally in the 1930s, and again a few seasons ago in "The Return of Hyman Kaplan" will always hold a special place in the hearts of his enthusiasts. If Rosten's touch seems less golden here, this is a first-rate service novel nonetheless. It should win its own wide collection of friends.

NOTES ON THE MARGIN
... For the yachtman's

shelf: "4 Winds of Adventure," in which the French expert sailor Marcel Bar-diaux takes his small boat from the U.S. East Coast around Cape Horn and on to Tahiti; four charts and \$4 photographs (DeGraff: \$5). In "All Seasons' Yachtman," another import from England (DeGraff: \$5), Peter Howard presents some of his personal sailing yarns plus useful lessons in yacht handling. Illustrated with photographs and charts.

Esquire magazine has dug through its files since 1934 for "Esquire's Great Men and Moments in Sports" (Harper: \$8.50). Fishing to auto racing to judo. Among those present: Robert C. Ruark, Jimmy Cannon, Paul Gallico, Philip Wylie, Budd Schulberg, Eric Sevareid, Barnaby Conrad, many others.

Captain Newman, M.D. By Leo Rosten. Harper & Bros.: 331 pp.: \$4.95.

Around the World With



DELAPLANE

"... anything you can tell us about shopping in the Orient?"

Hong Kong is the shopping bargain counter of the Far East. Prices on imports, such as Japanese radios, are lower in Singapore due to lower rents. But there isn't as much selection.

Both Hong Kong and Singapore are free ports—just about everything comes in duty-free, tax-free.

Japanese and German cameras, binoculars, tape recorders, radios and portable TVs are good buys. Cheaper than in their home countries.

Swiss watches are as good or better in price than in Switzerland.

Naturally, there's always a catch: It's a highly competitive city and there are a number of interesting things about it.

A name-brand Swiss watch may be cheaper than in Switzerland because the merchant has imported the real works and made a replica case in gold. (Real gold. But not the original Swiss case. The same thing is done in Italy.)

Generally, you can be sure of the merchandise I wouldn't take a guide. His percentage is added to the price the minute you both walk in the door.

"... the warm places in Europe in March? Not too crowded."

You could try the Greek islands, flying out of Athens. I get high reports (from my secretary) on Sardinia—115 miles off the West Coast. She writes:

"Great beaches with good accommodations. Most of them have cafes, small inns, large hotels, boat rentals and snack bars. Music seems to come from everywhere.

"I spent days following little roads that led to a bit of sea, mountains, and deserted castles, and returned with a feeling that no one else had been there for centuries. "Hotels range from \$4 to \$11 and that includes meals."

FYI: A new edition of my reprinted columns from Tahiti has been issued. It's free. Write South Pacific Air Lines, 311 California St., San Francisco, Calif.

"Are cigarettes high in France? How many can you bring in?"

American cigarettes go about 50 cents or better all over Europe. (Except in Spain, where they bootleg them in from Africa.)

The official limit is usually two cartons. But if you sort of scatter them through your luggage—so you don't make a problem for the inspector—they don't push you on it.

The question is asked like this: "Have you anything to declare? Any tobacco?"

Your answer is: "Just enough to last me on this trip for my personal use."

This makes everybody honest and happy.

"An inexpensive hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico..."

I don't know San Juan. Correspondents recommend the Palace and the Central. About \$5 a day.

Stan Delaplaine finds it impossible to answer all of his travel mail.

For his intimate tips on Japan, Italy, England, France, Russia, Hawaii, Mexico, Ireland, and Spain (10 cents each), send coins and stamped, self-addressed, large envelope to the Torrance HERALD, Box RR, Torrance, Calif.

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